



**NAMIBIA  
UNIVERSITY  
OF SCIENCE  
AND TECHNOLOGY**

**STATEMENT AND VOTE OF THANKS**

**BY**

**ADV ESI SCHIMMING-CHASE**

***CHAIRPERSON THE COUNCIL***

**ON**

**THE OCCASION OF THE 2016 SPRING GRADUATION OF THE  
NAMIBIAN UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (NUST)**

**ON**

**14 OCTOBER 2016**

**AT**

**09H00**

**AT**

**SAFARI HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE**

**WINDHOEK**

Vice-Chancellor of NUST, Dr Tjama Tjivikua

Chancellor of NUST and Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly, Prof Peter Katjavivi

Honourable Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation, Dr Itah Kandjii-Murangi

Esteemed Graduates

I am deeply honoured to deliver the vote of thanks on behalf of NUST. We have had a wonderful ceremony and a rich output of graduates, which is a positive development for our University and country. However, as Chairperson of a new Council of NUST, please allow me to preface the vote of thanks by making a statement regarding this important project thrust upon us as Council Members.

First, we are humbled and thankful for the confidence shown to us by being assigned the unique responsibility of overseeing this invaluable treasure of the nation. We are taking our responsibility excitement and very seriously, and hence despite the vast combined experience of the Members of Council, we were all keen and have undergone the unique customised training on governance in higher education. This stems from our strong belief, in the words of Mark Goyder (Director of Tomorrow's Company) that, ***"Governance and leadership are the yin and the yang of successful organizations. If you have leadership without governance you risk tyranny, fraud and personal fiefdoms. If you have governance without leadership you risk atrophy, bureaucracy and indifference."***

Ladies and gentlemen

We have embraced the vision of the Institution to become a premier university in science and technology that prepares leaders for the knowledge economy and it should serve as our guiding light. We are also mindful of the fact that the higher education sector is under increasing pressure, both domestically and internationally, to become more relevant to

industry and the communities it serves and hence the necessity to relook at and re-engineer our academic programmes and services accordingly to meet the demands of the future. Our strategic guide and support will be critical in this regard. We are thus proud to be part of this dynamic and ward-wining university.

Finally, this morning on behalf of the Council, I would like to congratulate Prof Peter Katjavivi for his election as NUST Chancellor. Sir, we look to you for wisdom and guidance. We commit ourselves to serving with the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor and his executive team and the NUST community as a whole to transform the University **“from good to great”**. We envision that this University will become a citadel of academic excellence for our country and the world at large.

#### Director Ceremonies

Now to the vote of thanks, first let me start by thanking you all for attending this ceremony, especially our guests and other dignitaries.

Let me also address myself to the graduates. Dear graduates, thank you for your diligence and hard work at NUST. You have measured to our high standards. You have, therefore, done NUST, your family, and your nation proud.

Next, I would like to acknowledge the family members, relatives, friends, guardians and sponsors and all others whose support has been behind every student’s success. You have stood behind our graduates through the long years of toil, encouraging, feeding, accommodating and funding our students. Please be assured of our deepest gratitude for your sacrifices and assistance. Thank you also for your presence here today, especially because many of you have travelled very far indeed.

I must also extend a special word of thanks to all the members of the NUST community – academic, administrative and support staff, whose hard work drives our students’ academic success. Vice-Chancellor Tjivikua and your team, the nation deeply appreciates being able to entrust the Management and operations of this University under your stewardship.

I would like to once again acknowledge the debt of gratitude we owe to the Government, NUST’s development partners locally and abroad, and to our many corporate friends: your

support is evident everywhere at NUST, from the quality and relevance of our academic programme to the modern facilities and the unique opportunities for work-integrated learning programme availed to our students.

Thanks go to the Safari Conferences Centre for making the venue available to NUST. I must also express a word of thanks to the organisers and service providers for this beautiful venue, excellent logistical arrangements and a well-run programme.

To the engaging NUST Choir, your performances were simply wonderful and most enjoyable. You gave us the cherry on top of the cake. Thank you very much.

I would also like to express NUST's gratitude to our Founding Chancellor for his enlightening remarks as well as for validating our graduation process. We think our governance processes are now in place and the graduates can proudly say we have received our awards from the Founding Chancellor of the University.

To our Hon Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation, Dr Itah Kandjii-Murangi, we are one of your key stakeholders and thus we are grateful that you graced this occasion. We also want to thank you for representing HE President of the Republic of Namibia, Dr Hage Geingob and delivering his message. Please convey our gratitude to His Excellency the President for having so generously shared his rich experiences and invaluable wisdom with us, and more importantly, having reassured us that education is a priority of priorities in the developmental agenda of our country.

Let me again thank you all for contributing to the success of this great event, and we are, indeed, grateful that it is place in this wonderful country of ours and, therefore, go well.

I thank you.